

CLAIMS

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1. A method of voice communication between two terminals including the steps of:

a) establishing a voice communication link between said terminals via a first packet network;

b) communicating by voice between said terminals over said link;

c) monitoring a parameter of said communication;

d) establishing a second voice communication link between said terminals via a second packet network when said monitored parameter departs from a predetermined value.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein said parameter comprises a measure of the quality of delivered voice signal.

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3. A method according to claim 1 wherein said establishment of said second voice communication link occurs automatically responsive to said parameter departing from said predetermined value in excess of a predetermined limit.

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4. A method according to claim 1 including the step of transmitting a recorded voice message to the terminal which initiated the communication prior to establishing said second voice communication link.
 5. A method according to claim 4 including the step of transmitting a response to said message from said terminal which initiated said communication prior to establishing said second voice communication link.
 6. A method according to claim 1 wherein said terminals are connected to said first and second voice communication links via a switched network.
 7. A method according to claim 6 wherein said switched network comprises a public switched telephone network.
 8. A method according to claim 7 wherein said terminals comprise telephone terminals.
 9. A method according to claim 6 wherein said second packet network comprises a control network for said switched network.
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10. A method according to claim 6 wherein said second packet network comprises a common channel signaling system for said switched network.
11. A method according to claim 9 wherein said first packet network comprises a public packet data network.
12. A method according to claim 10 wherein said first packet network comprises the Internet.
13. A method according to claim 9 wherein switched network comprises a telephone network and said terminals comprise telephone terminals.
14. A method according to claim 13 wherein said telephone terminals are connected to signal switching points and said second packet network is connected between said signal switching points.
15. A method according to claim 14 wherein said telephone terminals are connected to local loops.
16. A method of voice communication between two terminals connected to a switched telephone network having a packet switched control network separate

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from said switched telephone network controlling
5 operation of said switched telephone network,
including the steps of:

- a) establishing a voice communication link
between said terminals via a second packet
network;
- 10 b) communicating by voice between said terminals
over said link;
- c) monitoring a parameter of said communication;
- d) establishing a second voice communication
link between said terminals via said control
15 network when said monitored parameter departs
from a predetermined value.

17. A method according to claim 16 wherein said control
network comprises a common channel signaling system
controlling said switched telephone network.

18. A method according to claim 16 wherein said second
packet network comprises an internetwork using a
first protocol and said control network uses a
second protocol for controlling said switched
5 telephone network and for establishing said second
voice communication link.

19. A method according to claim 16 wherein said parameter is a measure of the quality of delivered voice signal.
20. A method according to claim 16 wherein said voice communication link between said terminals is established by dial up connection to said switched telephone network.
21. A method according to claim 16 including the step of testing the load on said control network prior to establishing said second voice communication link between said terminals.
22. A method according to claim 16 including the step of recording the time duration of said voice communication link between said terminals via said control network.
23. A method according to claim 16 including the step of recording a count of cells used during a voice communication via said second voice communication link.
24. A method of voice communication between two terminals connected to signal switching points of a

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switched telephone network having a packet switched control network separate from said switched telephone network connected to said signal switching points and controlling operation of said switched telephone network, including the steps of:

- a) establishing a voice communication link between said terminals via a second packet network;
- b) communicating by voice between said terminals over said link;
- c) monitoring a parameter of said communication;
- d) establishing a second voice communication link between said terminals via said control network when said monitored parameter departs from a predetermined value.

25. A method according to claim 24 wherein said terminals comprise telephone terminals connected to said signal switching points via local loops.

26. A communication system comprising in combination a switched telephone network having spaced switching systems connected to terminals, a packet switched control network controlling said switched telephone network, and a second packet switched network

connectable to said switching systems, wherein said terminals are connected to said second packet switched network and subsequently to said control network via said switching systems for voice communication between said terminals via said packet switched networks.

27. A communication system comprising in combination a switched telephone network having spaced switching systems connected to terminals, a packet switched control network controlling said switched telephone network, and a second packet switched network connectable to said switching systems, wherein said terminals are connected sequentially to said packet switched networks for voice communication between said terminals via said packet switched networks.

28. A system according to claim 27 wherein said terminals are connected to said second packet switched network and voice communication conducted via said second packet switched network and then connected to said packet switched control network and voice communication conducted via said packet switched control network.

29. A system according to claim 28 wherein connection to said packet switched control network is made responsive to decrease in the quality of voice communication via said second packet switched network.
30. A system according to claim 29 wherein said second packet switched network comprises the Internet.
31. A system according to claim 30 wherein said packet switched network comprises a common channel interoffice signaling network.
32. A system according to claim 31 wherein said terminals are connected for voice communication via a packet switched network responsive to establishing connection to a dialing terminal.
33. A communication system comprising in combination a switched telephone network having spaced switching systems connected to terminals, a packet switched control network controlling said switched telephone network, and a second packet switched network connectable to said switching systems, wherein said terminals are linked sequentially to said packet

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36. A system according to claim 35 including monitor control means for initiating said totalization for individual voice communications.

37. A system according to claim 36 including means for storing the results of said totalization.

38. A system according to claim 37 including means utilizing said results of said totalization for billing for said voice communication.

39. A communication system comprising in combination a switched telephone network having spaced switching systems connected to terminals, a packet switched control network controlling said switched telephone network, and a second packet switched network connectable to said switching systems, wherein said terminals are linked to at least one of said packet switched networks via said switching systems for voice communication between said terminals over said at least one of said packet switched networks via packetized voice signals, and means for totalizing the units comprising said packetized voice signals over said at least one of said packet switched networks during said voice communication thereover.

40. A system according to claim 39 wherein said at least one of said packet switched networks comprises said control network.

41. A system according to claim 40 wherein said means for totalizing includes means monitoring said packetized voice signals and totalizing said units.
42. A system according to claim 41 including monitor control means for initiating said totalization for individual voice communications.
43. A system according to claim 42 including means for storing the results of said totalization.
44. A system according to claim 43 including means utilizing said results of said totalization for billing for said voice communication.